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MAR 05 2003

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Virginia Freeman, et al. :
Application No. 08/722,045 :
Filed: October 4, 1996 :
Attorney Docket No. 96-1252.US :

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed November 20, 2002 and a supplemented paper filed by facsimile on February 27, 2003, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to reply within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.113 in a timely manner to the final Office action mailed April 5, 1999, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. No extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, the application became abandoned on July 6, 1999.

The above-identified application has been abandoned for an extended period of time. The Patent and Trademark Office is relying on petitioner's duty of candor and good faith and accepting the statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg. at 53160 and 53178, 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 88 and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109)(applicant obligated under 37 CFR 10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and circumstances when providing the statement required by 37 CFR 1.137(b) to the Patent and Trademark Office). In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

There is no indication that the person signing the instant petition was ever given a power of attorney or authorization of agent to prosecute the above-identified application. If the person signing the instant petition desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate power of attorney or authorization of agent must be submitted. While a courtesy copy of this decision is being

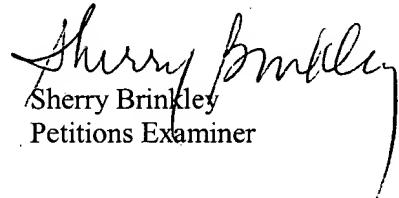
mailed to the person signing the instant petition, all future correspondence will be directed to the address currently of record until such time as appropriate instructions are received to the contrary.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Cheryl Gibson-Baylor at (703)308-5111, or in her absence, Sherry Brinkley at (703)305-9220.

The application file is being forwarded to Technology Center 1600, Art Unit 1615 for processing the Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114, filed on November 20, 2002.



Cheryl Gibson-Baylor
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy



Sherry Brinkley
Petitions Examiner

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